

MARVEL
15th Oct 88

THE REAL

№18 38p

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GHSTBUSTERS™

**EGON FACES THE
COMPUTERGEIST!**

**GAME
ON!**

DEATH IS AT HAND IN...

FULL HAUNTED HOUSE!

**PETER'S LIFE IS ON
THE VINE IN...**

JUNGLE BLOCK



What are The Ghostbusters playing at? Issue eighteen of **THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS** has both Peter and Egon intent on losing their souls to double-dealing spooks, but as Peter discovers, if you enter into the spirit of the game and play your cards right, you can not only save your soul from eternal damnation, but bust a few ghosts along the way as well! Sadly eternal damnation for the spirit of Mother Nature appears to be imminent when the re-developers move in, to create a concrete jungle. Can the Ghostbusters save the day and prevent a **Jungle Block?**

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS: Here to save the world, down to the very last leaf!

CONTENTS

Jungle Block!	3
Spengler's Spirit Guide	9
Computergeist!	10
Ghost Writing	13
Ghostbusters Fact File: Elemental Phantoms	14
The Mighty Marvel Checklist	16
Full Haunted House!	17
Slime Time	22
Next Issue/Blimey! It's Slimer!	23

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THE REAL GHOST BUSTERS™



PETER
VENKMAN



EGON
SPENGLER



RAY
STANTZ



WINSTON
ZEDDMORE

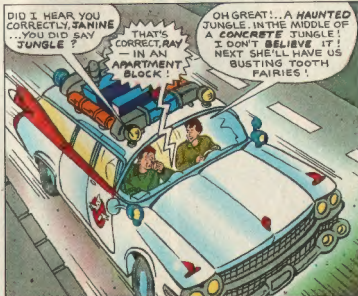
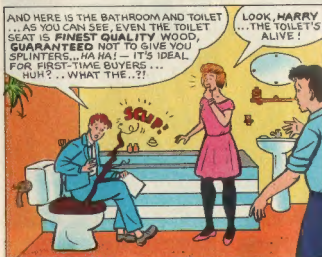
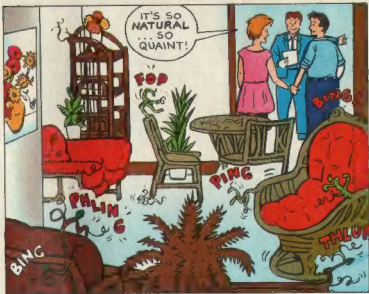


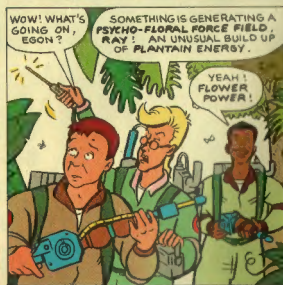
JANINE
MELNITZ



SLIMER

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS™







HEY GUYS,
COME ON!
I WAS ONLY
JOKING
ABOUT THE
TARZAN
THING!

TOO BAD,
WISE GUY...
GET UP THAT
VINE... AND NO
MONKEY
BUSINESS!
HA HA HA!



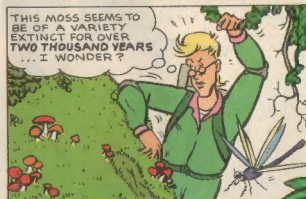
AND SO...ON
THE WAY UP...

YUMMM!
THEY LOOK
GOOD!



GRAPE!
GRAPE!!

ON SECOND
THOUGHTS...



THIS MOSS SEEMS TO
BE OF A VARIETY
EXTINCT FOR OVER
TWO THOUSAND YEARS
... I WONDER?



HURRY UP WILL YA...
I THINK SOMEONE
FORGOT TO PUT THE
CAT OUT!

GRRR
RRRR



HEY, DO ANY
OF YOU GUYS
BELIEVE IN
FAIRIES?

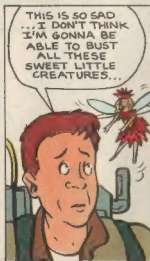
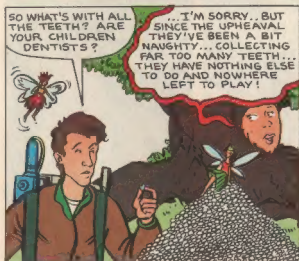
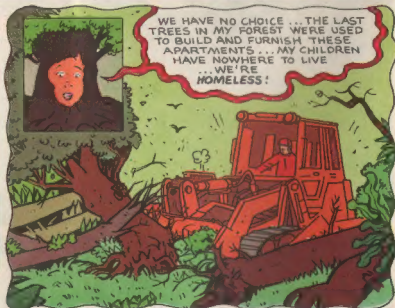
HE HE HE
HE HE...

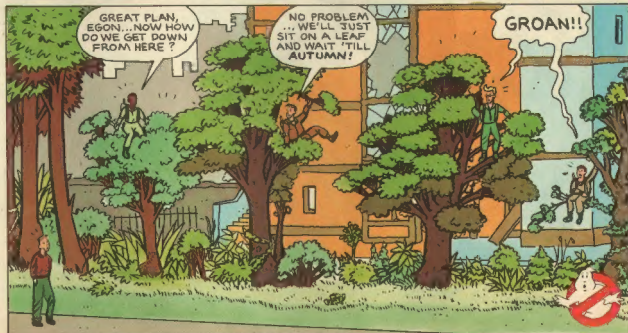
BILLIE!



AND, WHEN THEY
REACHED THE ROOF...

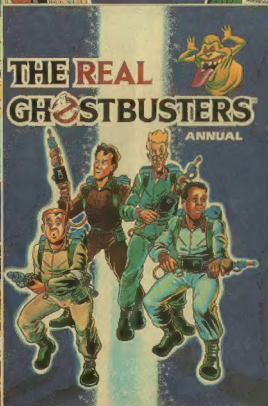
EGON... I THINK
YOU'D BETTER GET
UP HERE FAST!





SOME KIDS JUST WANT SOCKS FOR CHRISTMAS. . . OTHERS WANT FUN!

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Dear Newsagent, please reserve me a copy of **THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS Annual**.

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SPENGLER'S

SPIRIT

GUIDE

RUNES

Apart from astrology and reading tea leaves, one of the most tried, tested and assured way of finding out about the Supercosmos is Runic Casting.

RUNIC CASTING

What are Runes you ask? Good question. Runic alphabets are used by a gifted sorcerer or other qualified paranormal expert to read the goings-on of the Other World. Runes are the alphabet of prehistory. The most famous according to archaeologists are called *Celtic Ogham Script* and *Futhark*. Both of these are predecessors of the English Language as we speak it now, but true, magic Runic tongues go back to the Black Languages of Othmekramok and the Dire Islands.

The key Black Language of Othmekramok and the Dire Islands is an alphabet called *Muckdemonstra*. In this curious script, consisting of over two thousand and thirty different characters, the future or a wish may be gained by the 'casting' or scattering of the letters on a white cloth and reading the result.

However, *Muckdemonstra* is such a difficult language to learn that very often, the Caster or Runeteller makes an error of punctuation, syntax or proof-reading. Then, instead of a foul demon winging its way to perform macabre crimes in the name of the Caller, the Caller himself finds that he is hunted by a vast, malevolent being armed with a big,



PART 18

blood-red pen, whose only aim is to put a big 'sp' in the margin of his existence. The only thing we professionals have to say about this, is basically "tough luck, kid" and "buy yourself a dictionary". Although we freely admit that English/*Muckdemonstra* phrase books are not that easy to come by.

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL RUNES

These are runic *sygils* (Letters) that open the doorways into other dimensions and worlds. Often used as part of a spell, these *sygils* are Very Powerful Indeed. Due to the fact that they open doorways into the grand vista of the Supercosmos, they are called such things as the 'Rune with a View'.

SYGILS

Sygils are usually written on smooth, white pebbles which

are then scattered on the pure white cloth. Mickey Fritz of Santa Monica, paints his *sygils* on individual cherry flans. Interesting though this approach is, Fritz tends to end up with a sort of cherry stew every time he casts the runes.

Lenny De Alveres of Tucson, ignores the two thousand and thirty odd letters of *Muckdemonstra* and instead uses the twenty-six (plus blank) of the deluxe Travel Scrabble set. One day, casting the runes with this, De Alveres read the following prediction of his future: "Tomorrow night in Stevie's Casino you will get over two thousand Gees." He went along and found it to be true, it was the worst game of Scrabble he'd ever played.

Morbeck Dehavilland Buskey, is the most adventurous Rune caster in the business. He tears up volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary and scatters them. The clearest message that he has ever received is the following: 'Hapsburg, water-tingcan, maroon, muscovite, trampoline, frenzy, balderdash.'

Generally speaking this is Bad Craziness and is largely discouraged by experts in the field, or indeed by anyone who has a vested interest in preserving the literacy of the English-speaking world. That is, of course, except for Morbeck Dehavilland Buskey, whose book *Having A Successful Trampoline Frenzy* is hovering on the edge of the best sellers list even as I write.

COMPUTERGEIST!



Story JOHN CARNELL ☉ Art BRIAN WILLIAMSON and DAVE HINE

The dark sky thundered and a flash of lightning crashed through the gathering clouds above Egon's laboratory. Egon was working late, the other Ghostbusters having retired to their beds some hours ago. It was almost time. His new invention stood waiting for the final flick of a switch.

"Everything seems to be in order . . ." said Egon to himself. "Grid co-ordinates set, bi-lateral, omni-cognant switch activated, little green flashing button that doesn't do anything . . . hmmm, everything seems to be in order, it looks like time for Switch On."

There was an amazing crash of lightning as Egon threw down the switch at the mains. The wires hummed and the computer screen was filled with a blaze of light.

"Good evening, Egon" said the computer in a dull and stilted voice.

"Good evening," replied a rather surprised Egon. "Hmmm . . . This is most unscientific", he thought to himself, "I don't recall entering a speech programme!"

Egon pressed button after button, checking for malfunctions, but found nothing. As a last resort, he pressed the little green button, but it just kept on flashing and then went 'beep'.

Egon frowned deeply and then said, "Who are you and what are you doing in my computer?"

Suddenly, two fearsome eyes and an even more fearsome mouth flashed onto the screen and at this point, Egon realised the horrible truth – his prized new invention was possessed!

"I am Zongola, and you have summoned me from the world beyond the sky to play a little game with you."

"I did?" said Egon.

"Yes you did! Now it is time for you to choose your game," demanded the ghost.

"What are we playing for?" asked Egon, rather foolishly.

"Your Soul!" screamed the wailing ghost as its cackling mouth filled the screen.

Egon frowned, then smiled quietly to himself . . . not everything was as it seemed.

"Okay, Zongola, you win. Let's play Noughts and Crosses."

"Ha! Too easy!" scoffed the ghost in the machine.

"Well then, let's make it a little more complicated shall we? Before you can make a move, you have to answer a question from your opponent."

"No problem, human. Here's your first question . . ." sneered the ghost. "What is the highest recorded number of wind-blown spores, a Giant Puffball Mushroom has produced in a single day? Ha! Work that one out, fungus brain!"

Egon pondered for a few seconds.

"Twenty-two million, two hundred and twenty-seven thousand, six hundred and fifty-four on a calm day, and thirty-three million, six hundred and twenty-eight thousand, five hundred and seventy-two during adverse weather conditions" answered Egon, calmly.

The ghost was a little taken aback as Egon placed his first cross in the middle of the grid.

"Beginner's luck!" It cackled, furiously.

"Okay, your turn" grinned Egon. "How many negatively-charged ions are blasted out into space during a Supernova, and what percentage of the star's original mass remains?"

"Hmmm . . . A tricky question . . . I'll have to think about this for a minute", said the spook. Exactly one minute later it returned with an answer. "Fifteen thousand million, zillion and twenty-two, and the percentage of mass remaining is 0.000000000000025%."

"Wow!" gasped Egon who was suitably impressed. Had he finally met his match?

The game continued to a climax at which point both sides were even and battling to fill the last, remaining empty square. Egon was markedly tense and the computer's circuits were teetering on overload. Both were poised for the final question which was Egon's to ask. Should the computer answer correctly, Egon's soul would burn in hell forever. If by chance Egon became the victor, the ghost would be doomed to spend the rest of its days in the Ecto-containment unit. Both were faced with the terror of their destiny. Egon paused and wiped his brow before voicing his final question.

"What do one and one make?"

"Ha!" laughed the computer incredulously, "That's easy, the answer is two – you lose your soul!"

"Wrong!" shouted Egon. "The answer's eleven and I've got you!"

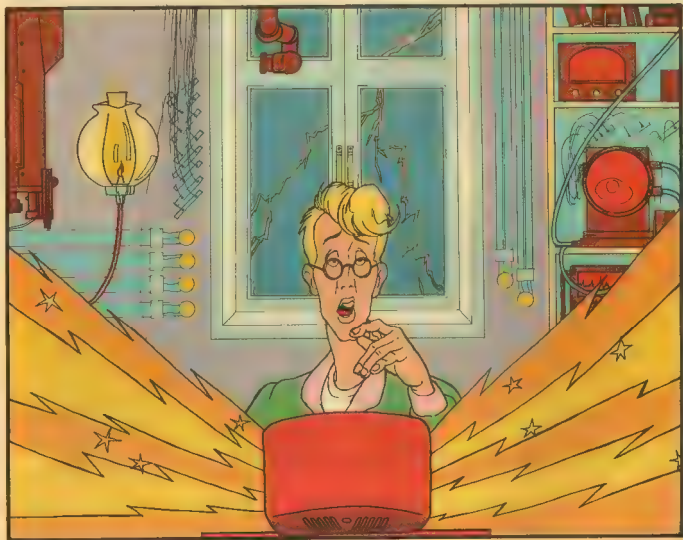
Without a second to spare, Egon pushed the little green button which went 'beep', and the screen image of the spook flickered and flashed.

"Now let's play real games" smiled Egon, as the image of a trap appeared on the screen. "This was my most successfully disguised trap to date", he laughed. "That spook has been the bane of my life over the past week, disrupting my lab when I'm out on a bust,

tampering with my spore collection and generally making a nuisance of itself. It may have been pretty intelligent in some respects, but it was too stupid not to take the bait!"

Egon switched off the machine. He had proved himself to be a mastermind once again. As he left the lab for the night, now confident that the disruptive ghost was bagged and that he could sleep peacefully, the thunder roared. As a flash of lightning caught Egon's face, making it suddenly glow in the gloomy darkness, a queer smile crossed his immaculate lips.

"Hmmm ... I wonder if Dr Frankenstein wants to come over for a game of dominoes?"



GHOST WRITING!



Hi, folks. It's so good to hear from you all again. Keep those questions rolling in, a little bit of fan mail goes a long way!

Dear Peter...

Will we ever see the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man in the comic and can Winston play baseball? If so, which team does he like?

— Mark Jefferies, Avon

Hopefully not, but you can never tell with these 'sludge-buckets'! Winston's favourite team is the New York Dodgers.

How do all the Ghostbusters keep their hair in place, do you use Slime?

— James Cooper, York

Bleah! No we do not! I use a designer hair sculpturing mousse, I'm not sure about the others. Egon probably uses some kind of herbal mushroom extract, or is it just moulded!

1. Why is Egon always frowning?
2. Is Egon's lab a mess?
3. Is there more than one PKE meter?
— Anon

1. It's the weight of all that brain matter trying to push its way out! 2. If you think that the Empire State Building was tidy after King Kong called, then yes, it's tidy. 3. Yep, we have one each, unless Slimer's eaten one, mistaking it for a peanut butter, salami, maggot, and crab and salmon flavoured cheese spread sandwich, as has been known to happen!

1. Where do all the ghosts come from?
2. How do you charge the packs?
3. Does Janine ever get bored?
4. How many ghosts do you catch in a week?
5. Do you enjoy trapping ghosts?
— Neil Houliham, Lymington

1. To be honest, I don't really care as long as someone is paying for me to clean them up. 2. We use an industrial uranium or cobalt-based atomic pile, which we keep in Egon's lab for safe-keeping! 3. In a fantastic, satisfying and extremely high-paying job like hers? I doubt it! 4. It varies according to the phase of the moon, sunspot activity, time of year and how many escape from the Containment Unit whoops! shouldn't have said that! 5. That depends on how much I'm getting paid at the time.

I really enjoy reading THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS comic and I have several questions for you:
1. Does the name Egon have a meaning?

2. What do the Ghostbusters' parents think of their work?
3. What made you want to keep Slimer?
4. Why is Ray so fat when Slimer eats all the food?
5. If Egon is so brainy, why can't he work out that Janine likes him?
6. Don't you think it would be a good idea to start a Ghostbusters Fan Club?
— Simon Meakin, Anglesey

1. Yeah, it means 'sick with science' or 'out of touch with reality'! 2. Well, dear ol' ma and pa were much happier when I was tucked safely away at college, but that all changed when the cheque for busting a particularly nasty Class-six, free-roaming phantasm allowed me to move them to a penthouse suite overlooking Central Park. It also allowed Egon to invest in a pair of albino Axolotls for Spengler senior. Just like his son two bricks short of a full load! 3. Target practise! 4. Ray's not fat. He's cute and cuddly, which is why he's such a big hit with the girls — that's what he says anyway! 5. Because he is so wrapped up in his work! I mean, anyone who would rather study brain tissue samples than go on a date with an attractive girl like Janine has got to be a 'Bustaholic'! 6. Maybe, but I think an 'Isn't-Peter-Venkman-A-Hunk-Society' sounds much better!

Ghost Writing, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2

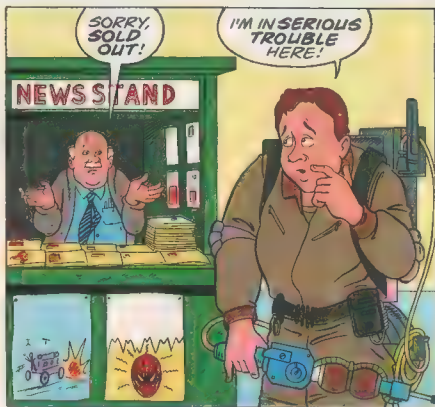
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 TIMESCREEN

HIGH-ALTITUDE ELEMENTAL PHANTOMS

A High-Altitude Elemental Phantom is a particularly nasty example of a Free-roaming, Class-one, Psycho-kintetic manifestation! Usually found on the roofs of high buildings or on mountains, this phantom takes the energy required to manifest itself from natural sources such as thunder storms. A most dramatic spook, the High-Altitude Elemental Phantom inspired the now classic, terrifying image found in many books and films, of the haunted property, perched high on a mountain ledge amidst a blaze of thunder and lightning! Often their power diminishes as a storm blows over before they have a chance to cause disruption, but in severe cases the haunting can prolong a storm causing a chain reaction and immediate busting is required.





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THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

TRANSFORMERS 187 Space Pirates reaches its apocalyptic conclusion, as Metroplex lays waste to the Quintesson army. However, with the Matrix still in Quintesson hands, it could still go either way. Prepare yourself for the end of a world. A shocker!

FLINTSTONES AND FRIENDS 13 Put your jogging shoes on for this super-fit issue. Everyone comes out a winner in the **Wacky Olympics** when Fred, Yogi and Scooby-Doo all enter the 100 metre dash. Plus, the latest part of Build Bedrock is Rocky Fore's open air gym, complete with Jane Fossil's new, improved, workout machine.

THUNDERCATS AND GALAXY RANGERS 83 The lovely Cheetara falls prey to things from another world when she becomes possessed by an alien spaceships, in the first part of **Sixth Sense**. In **Winds of Terror**, this issue's **GALAXY RANGERS** story, Shane Gooseman battles desperately to free Waldo Zeptic from Captain Kidd and his infamous wind tunnel.

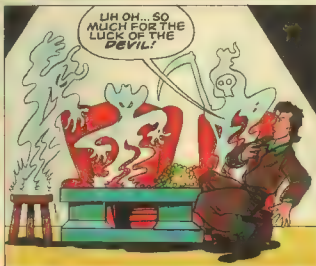
THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 18 The Ghostbusters' souls are in grave danger in this issue. In **Computergeist**, Egon's new computer gets possessed by a soul-stealer. Peter has to gamble with his soul when he plays cards with Satan, Death and the See-Through Kid in **Full Haunted House**, and in **Jungle Block** the spirit of mother nature rebels against the builders of the concrete jungle.

DRAGON'S CLAWS 5 **DRAGON'S CLAWS** go to Northern England to investigate a mysterious explosion and find themselves in big trouble when they face not only the ruthless Nell and Slaughterhouse of the Evil Dead but also the awesome robotic bounty-hunter, **DEATH'S HEAD**.

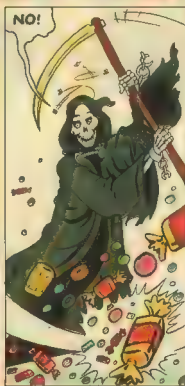
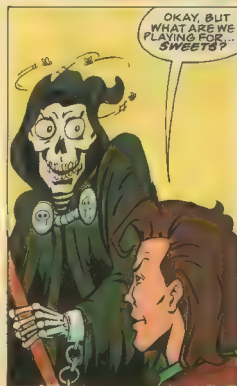
ALF AUTUMN SPECIAL Fifty-two pages of all-new stories in this super-sized annual. In the **Return of Rhonda**, Alf's girlfriend pays him a flying visit. **Safe at Home** sees Alf getting into baseball, while in **Back to Nature** and **A Campy Approach**, Alf gets a taste for the country and becomes Alfbo, rugged survival expert.

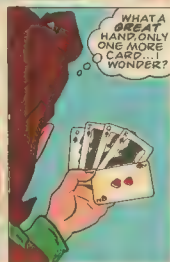
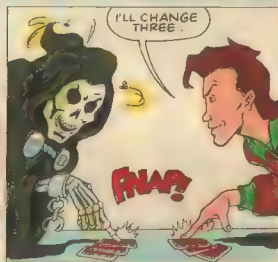
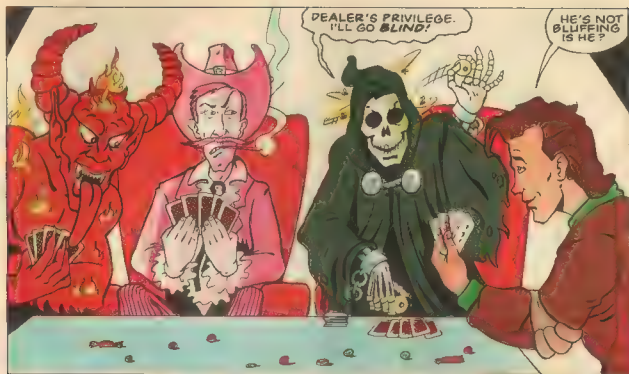
ON SALE NOW!

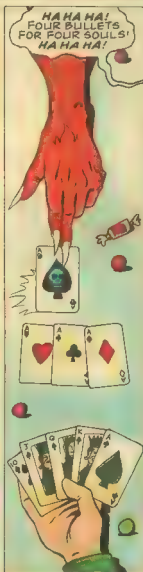
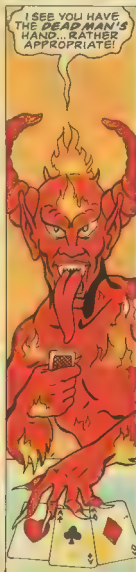
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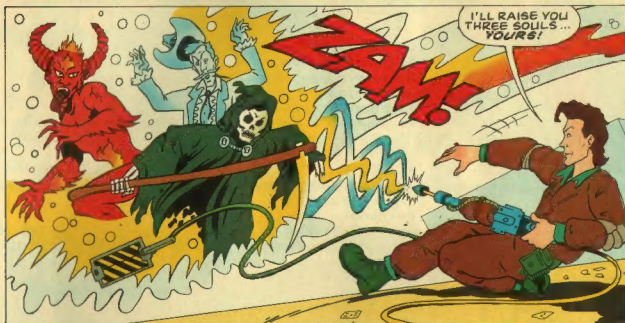


Story JOHN CARNELL Art BRIAN WILLIAMSON and CAM SMITH Lettering HEL Colouring STUART PLACE









SLIME TIME!

Slimer wants your jokes! Send 'em to: **SLIME TIME**
Marvel Comics Ltd
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WC2



How does a ghost rooster wake you in the morning?
It goes spook-a-doodle dooo!
— Trevor Obermuller, Morden

What is a skeleton?
Bones with the people scrapped off!
— Susan Day, Maidenhead

What do you get if you cross a Tyrannosaurus Rex with a cow?
A monster that eats anyone who tries to milk it!
— Bob Bakker, South Kensington

Why are vampires crazy?
Because they're all batty!
— Micky Gunnell, Esher

What do you get if you cross a Brontosaurus with a kangaroo?
Holes in the ground!
— Lynn Moulding, Horsham

What do you call two spiders who have just got married?
Newly webs!
— Glenn Atkins, Chessington

What is a young witch's favourite lesson?
Spelling!
— Mike Mirams, Newmarket

Why couldn't the skeleton pay his bus fare?
He was skint!
— Mike Phipps, Bideford

Why was King Kong rushed into hospital?
He had ape-pendicitis!
— Steve Robinson, Seven Sisters

What has wings, is hairy and travels at 1000 miles per hour?
King Kongcorde!
— Gary Gilbert, Peranporth

What does the Devil fly in?
A hell-icopter!
— Louise Cassell, Longleat

What is a ghost's favourite ride at the fair?
The hell-terkelter!
— Mark Irvine, Crystal Palace

What do you call a gremlin with crutches?
A hobblin' goblin!
— Jo Newcomb, Banstead

What do you get if you cross a witch and an iceberg?
A cold spell!
— Simon Jones, Kent

What happened when the Abominable Snowman fell out with his girlfriend?
She gave him the cold shoulder!
— Jane Darcy, Kenley

How do you know when a demon is being bad-tempered?
He gets hot under the collar!
— Isaac Fox, Blackfen

DRILLER THRILLER...

...WAP BAM BOOGIE!

IN JUST 7 DAYS

BUMMEY!
IT'S...

UNDERGROUND

ONE OF MY FAVOURITE
HAUNTS....

MAR BONE

I'M USED TO
UNDERGROUND...

'CAUSE I'VE BEEN
DEAD NOW FOR...

AGWWWW!

OVER A HUNDRED
YEARS....

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PEOPLE GIVE UP THEIR
SEATS TO THE ELDERLY!

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